(d) and (e) No, Sir. TB HIV co-infection is global phenomena and its effect on TB programmes has been felt primarliy in Africa.

Rules for Admission to Private Medical and Dental College

7290. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to sate:

(a) what are the rules made for admission to Medical and Dental Colleges managed by the religious and linguistic minorities;

(b) whether any State Government can change the rules of admission notified by the Central Government by anacting a legislation or ignoring the rules passed by Medical Council and Dental Council; and

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Karnataka Government is considering to bring a legislation to have its own rules and if so, what is the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) As per the regulations framed by the Medical Council of India/Dental Council of India, 50% seats in minority educational institutions shall be filled on the basis of merit list prepared by the competent authority. Out of these seats half shall be payment seats and other half shall be free seats. The remaining 50% of seats shall be filled by the management from amongst the candidates belonging to the concerned minority out of which half will be payment seats and other half will be free seats. However the following medical colleges have been kept outside the ourview of these regulations:—

(i) Christian Medical College, Vellore.

(ii) St. John's Medical College, Bangalore.

(b) The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 empowers the Medical Council of India to frame such regulations with the approval of the Central Government. Similar provision exists under the Dentists Act, 1948 in respect of dental colleges.

(c) Government have no such information.

Blood banks Functioning in the Country

7291. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of approved blood banks which are functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the approved blood banks are assisted by Government under the AIDS control programmes and if so, in what manner; and

(c) the number of approved blood bank centres which are functioning in Bangalore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) A statement indicating state-wise position of public sector Blood Banks is laid on the Table of the Sabha. (*See* below)

(b) Under AIDS Control Programme public sector blood banks are being provided both cash and commodity assistance for their modernisation. During the 8th Plan, it is envisaged to set up 31 Component Separation Facilities for rational use of blood.

(c) Six public sector Blood Banks are funtioning in Bangalore.